

Colleges have various options for trainees

NETALING JAYA: Local colleges have given the 85,000 national service (NS) trainees undergoing the three-month stint various options to pursue their pre-university studies.

The first batch of trainees will undergo training from tomorrow (March 6), and the next two batches from March 14 to June 3 and July 10 to Sept 30.

Sunway College 'A' levels director Hor Poh Choo said the first batch could join the March intake after their training.

She said the second batch could start the pre-university programme in January, then take a break for the training and return

in June for the March intake's second semester.

The third batch could choose to take the year off or join the college in January for one semester and continue the following year.

Kolej Damansara Utama academic department head Sathyavathy Rasanayagam advised those in the third batch enrolling in their college to start in January for the first semester and return later to finish the course.

"They (the students) can come in January for the Advanced Subsidiary paper syllabus by July, and while it will be tight when they return in October, we will

give them extra coaching," said Sathyavathy.

Taylor's College has maintained two intakes in January and July for their 'A' Levels programme, with three intakes in January, March and July for their International Canadian Pre-University programme.

INTI College has maintained their January and May intakes as well as January, May and September intakes for their diploma and foundation programmes.

It also has a March intake for the one-year South Australian Matriculation programme that runs for nine months.

NS Training Department deputy director-general Omar Abdul Rahman said those who are in colleges could apply to defer their training and continue it at a later date.

"Our regulations state that the service is opened to those aged 16 to 35 so they can even come back after university so long as they have proof that they have been studying," said Omar.

Those doing the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) and are in the second batch would be exempted for the last 19 days of service so they can begin their STPM studies on time.